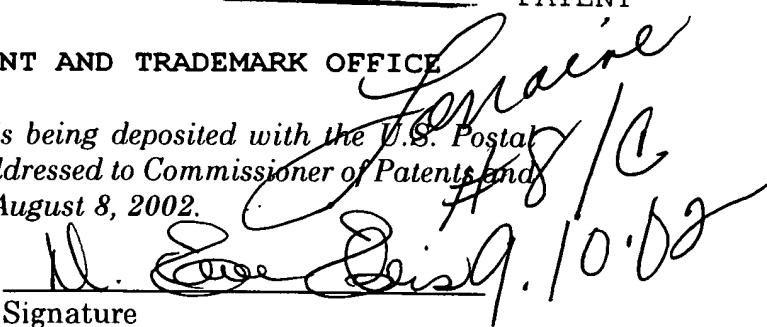


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 8, 2002.


Signature

Applicant : Nobuo Ogasawara
Application No. : 09/973,303
Filed : October 9, 2001
Title : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING EXPIRATION-DATED PRODUCTS UTILIZING AN ELECTRONIC RECEIPT

Grp./Div. : 3627
Examiner : Kenneth R. Rice
Docket No. : 47410/JEC/F179

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
August 8, 2002

Commissioner:

In response to the Office action of April 25, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 10-33, amend claims 1, 3, 6, and add new claims 34-38. The now pending claims are as follows:

- C10
1. (Amended) A system for controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:
means for determining shelf-life limitation information for each of one or more product items;